Oil exploration in Nagaland by ONGC

1710. SHRI KARNENDU BHATTACHARJEE: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that ONGC is planning to resume oil explorations in Nagaland shortly;

(b) if so, the details thereof and by when the exploration work is likely to be resumed;

(c) whether the reasons for abandoning the exploration work in 1994 have since disappeared; and

(d) whether the exploration work would be initiated in other potential areas of North-Eastern zone also and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI E. PONNUSWAMY): (a) to (c) Exploration and production of hydrocarbons in Nagaland were suspended by ONGC since 1993 and 1994 respectively because of prevalent conditions. While attempts are being made to create a conducive atmosphere for resumption of exploration and production work, it is not possible to indicate a specific time frame therefor.

(d) The exploration work for hydrocarbons is in progress in other States of North-Eastern Region, like Assam, Meghalaya, Arunachal Pradesh and Tripura.

Share of ONGC and OIL in crude oil production

†1711. PROF. RAM GOPAL YADAV: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the separate percentage increase in the prices of petroleum products and total amount of revenue gained from the increase;

(b) the share of ONGC and Oil India Limited in the production of crude oil every year;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(c) the amount of subsidy Government are providing on different petroleum products and what is the benefit per unit in lieu of their production to producing companies dealers, taxes and the company; and

(d) what will be the effect on Government exchequer if price hike is withdrawn or reduced?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI E. PONNUSWAMY): (a) The percentage increase in the retail selling price of petroleum products due to recent revision in prices of petro products is as under:

(All figures in %)

	Calcutta	Delhi	Chennai	Mumbai
Petrol	10.25	9.09	8.54	8.13
Diesel	19.15	17.88	18.18	17.78
PDS Kerosene	32.71	32.67	33.33	32.34
LPG Domestic	13.10	13.36	12.97	13.17

It is estimated that due to the increase in consumer prices of petroleum products effected on 30th September, 2000 and subsequent revision effected from 22nd November, 2000, an amount of around 7,400 crore would accrue to the Oil Pool Account by 31st March, 2001.

(b) Oil India Limited (OIL) and Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Limited (ONGCL)'s production during the last three years and till 31st October, 2000 is as under:—

(in Million Metric Tonne)

Year	OIL	ONGC
1997-98	3.094	29.222
1998-99	3.294	27.546
1999-2000	3.283	26.181
Upto October, 2000	1.924	15.582

(c) Based on December 2000 prices, the current estimated average subsidy on diesel, PDS kerosene and domestic LPG are Rs. 1.94/litre, Rs. 6.77/litre and Rs. 162.16/cylinder, respectively.

(d) The Government have reduced the retail prices of kerosene for public distribution and domestic LPG by around Re. 1.00/litre and Rs. 10/Cylinder effective November 22, 2000. The estimated impact of these adjustments on oil pool during the current financial year would be about Rs. 600 crore.

Supply of gas to APL

1712. SHRI DRUPAD BORGOHAIN: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the difficulty in supplying gas to Assam Petrochemicals Ltd. (APL), which uses only a little amount of gas, at the price agreed with the RAPL for building Gas Cracker Unit in Assam; and

(b) whether Government propose to supply the gas at this rate to remove the difficulties faced by the APL and thus save it?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI E. PONNUSWAMY): (a) and (b) Keeping in view the importance of the Assam Gas Cracker Project for the economic development of Assam, the Government in 1994, took a one time decision to supply gas for this project at the concessional price of Rs. 600 per thousand cubic meters (MCM) for a period of 15 years. The Government does not propose to extend such a concession for any other project. For all other consumers in North Eastern Region, including those in the Power Sector, the consumer price of natural gas is currently linked to 45% of the international price of fuel oil with a ceiling price of Rs. 1700 per MCM. Further, there is a provision to allow a discount of Rs. 300 per MCM on a case to case basis for natural gas consumers in the North Eastern Region.

Supply of cooking gas through pipeline

1713. SHRI CHO S. RAMASWAMY: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that cooking gas is made available through pipeline to residential areas in major cities;